

Aedes vexans in Guatemala¹

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In the Western Hemisphere the predominantly holarctic Aedes (Aedimorphus) vexans (Meigen, 1830) is widely distributed in Canada and the United States (Carpenter and LaCasse 1955:264-265; Stone 1965:116). It has also been reported from Mexico as far south as the state of Michoacan, at about the latitude of Mexico City (Vargas 1956:21).

The first indication of the presence of Aedes vexans in Central America came when we received a few females of an undetermined species collected by Professor D. S. Bertram in British Honduras at elevations of 100-300 meters (Bertram, in press). Our identification of this species as vexans was confirmed by Dr. K. L. Knight.

Recently we found in our material from a brief survey in Guatemala in 1964 two females of Aedes vexans reared from pupae (GUA 47-100, 115B-102). The collections came from localities within about 40 kilometers from Guatemala City at elevations of about 1200-1700 meters. Both the adults and the pupae agree well with North American specimens.

Aedes vexans appears to be uncommon in British Honduras and Guatemala as well as in Mexico. It is possible that it has been introduced to Guatemala as well as British Honduras. However its distribution in Mexico suggests a natural extension from North America and it is not inconceivable that at least the Guatemalan population is a relict from a former more extensive southern distribution of the species in the New World.

References

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